

REMARKS

Claims 35-36 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 21-34 are canceled and new claims 35-36 are added. No new matter is added.

Improper Finality

Claims 21-34 were pending in this application prior to the above amendments. Claim 34 was added in the Preliminary Amendment filed February 26, 2001 and was not pending in the parent application.

The Office Action incorrectly asserts that "all claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application, and on this basis made the Office Action Final. However, as noted above, claim 34 is not drawn to the same invention that was pending in the parent application. Thus, the June 7, 2001 has been improperly deemed "Final." Should the Examiner find the new claims to not be in condition for allowance, reconsideration and withdrawal of the finality of the June 7, 2001 Office Action are respectfully requested.

Section 102/103 Rejection

Applicants believe that the rejections of claims 28-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), §102(a) and 102(f) are moot with the cancelation of claims 28-33. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

C nclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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